

'Dads Win Rain-Shortened Game

Written by Staff Reports
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The Hickory Crawdads launched three home runs into the ominous sky Saturday night before the second rain delay of the evening finally ended the game in the bottom of the 7th inning, giving the 'Dads a 6-3 win over the Kannapolis Intimidators at Crawdads Stadium. In a game that featured five total homers between the two clubs, it was the Intimidators that struck first with a 2-run blast from left fielder Jason Coats in the top of the first to take a 2-0 lead. The 'Dads answered right back in the bottom of the frame, with Nick Vickerson launching a 2-run shot of his own to left to tie the game at 2-2.

Following a 35 minute rain delay in the middle of the second inning, the Crawdads took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the third when Ryan Rua lined an opposite field homer to right. The solo shot was the 25th of the year for the Hickory second baseman, temporarily tying him with teammate Joey Gallo for the Minor League lead.

The 'Dads added to their advantage in the fifth, as Rua came through again with a 2-out RBI single to right to make the score 4-2. The lead would swell to 6-2 with the next batter, as Gallo crushed a two-run bomb to right-center field. The mammoth blast pushed Gallo's season homer total to 26, once again giving him sole possession of the MiLB lead.

The Intimidators would tack on one final run in the top of the sixth with their second homer of the night, a solo shot by first baseman Keon Barnum to finish the scoring at 6-3.

The Crawdads would come up to bat in the bottom of the seventh with Rua singling to left and Gallo striking out before the rain once again began to fall. The contest went into another delay for 41 minutes before it was finally called, giving the 'Dads their 6-3 win.

Rua finished the rain-shortened contest 3-4 with a home run and two RBI, Vickerson went 1-2 with his 2-run blast while Gallo ended the night 1-4 with the 2-run dinger.

Hickory starting pitcher Luis Parra (5-1) earned the win as he pitched through the initial rain delay to finish with two runs allowed on two hits over his five innings on the mound. Kannapolis reliever Storm Throne (0-2) took the loss after allowing two runs on four hits in three innings pitched.

With the win the Crawdads improve to 10-6 on the year while the Intimidators fall to 7-10. The two teams will wrap up their 4-game series on Sunday, with the 'Dads going for the series win at 5:00 pm.

NOTES: The home runs by Vickerson, Rua and Gallo tonight push the Crawdads season homer total to 124. The single-season Crawdad record is 135 home runs while the SAL record stands at 173....Crawdads @ Home: The 'Dads are home again Sunday against Kannapolis with First Responders Appreciation Night. All First Responders receive FREE admission with a valid ID....Individual Tickets for all Crawdads home games are available right now at Hickorycrawdads.com or by calling (828) 322-3000! Group outings, corporate partnerships, Buffalo Wild Wings Claw Club memberships and Ticket Books are also available right now by calling the Front Office at (828) 322-3000.

Photo Courtesy: Ryan Rua, Hickory Crawdads